

ABSTRACT

A router uses a distributed implementation of a routing control protocol to route a packet between a plurality of computer networks. The router includes a control-plane having 5 a control-plane processor to implement a central control portion of the control protocol and a plurality of forwarding-planes, each having a forwarding-plane processor, to implement an offload control portion of the control protocol. A back-plane connects the forwarding-planes to each other and to the 10 control-plane. Together, these components route a packet based on the distributed implementation of the control protocol.

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